



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 05-21-2008

MEETING MINUTES MAY 21, 2008

Members Present: Barbara Cutler, Barbara Jones, Janice Dallas, Kerrie Fallon,
Susan James, Kevin O'Brien, Maureen St. Hilaire

Members Absent: Lin Baker

Others Present: Clarissa Rowe, Chairman Board of Selectmen
Brian Sullivan, Town Manager
Margie Conboy, Boston Maum Meditation Center

Boston Maum Meditation Center:

Margie Conboy, owner of the Boston Maum Meditation Center (BMMC), said that a student of BMMC had recently purchased a residential home located at 48 Massachusetts Avenue in Arlington with the intention that BMMC would occupy the first floor of the building. Margie Conboy said that because the use of the home was being changed from residential to commercial she was informed by the local building inspector that the building would be required to have an accessible entrance that would require the installation of a ramp. Margie Conboy said that because of the limited financial resources of the BMMC and the high price to install a ramp her opinion is that installing a ramp would be unreasonable. Margie Conboy said that BMMC requested a variance from the Architectural Access Board not to install a ramp but to offer services if needed at an alternate site. Margie said that the variance request was denied by the AAB. Margie Conboy said that her reason for attending the Commission Meeting was to request advice on finding a contractor that had knowledge in ADA requirements that would be able to assist BMMC in developing plans to make the 48 Massachusetts Avenue location accessible.

Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2008:

Barbara Cutler requested that a sentence stating that APS signals are not required by regulation be removed from the minutes. With this amendment Kevin O'Brien moved to accept the meeting minutes seconded by Janice Dallas. SO VOTED

Annual Report to Town Meeting:

Kerrie Fallon said that Barbara Cutler had prepared a draft of the Annual Report for Town Meeting. Kerrie thanked Barbara Cutler for her work and said that she intended to modify the report before presenting the Report to Town Meeting. Barbara Cutler expressed her disappointment in Kerrie's intention to modify the Report. Barbara Cutler also expressed her disappointment in Kerrie's decision to withdraw a warrant article from the 2007 Town Meeting that pertained to requesting a paid staff position. Kerrie said she was not present at the meeting when a vote was taken to submit the warrant article that requested a paid staff

position. Kerrie said if she were aware of such a vote she would not have withdrawn the warrant article.

Kerrie requested a list of reasons as to when a Commission is allowed to enter executive session.

Broadway Plaza:

Clarissa Rowe said that the Town of Arlington wants to involve the Commission in designing alterations to Broadway Plaza. Clarissa talked about the concern of bricks on the plaza and the granite wall that interferes with the flow of pedestrian traffic. Clarissa also mentioned the current problem with skateboarders and trash on the Plaza. Clarissa Rowe suggested that Commission Members view the wire cut bricks that have been installed in Lexington Center in the area of Waltham Street. Barbara Cutler said that the position of the Commission is that no bricks be installed including wire cut bricks.

Accessible Pedestrian Signals:

Brian Sullivan said that the contract for Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) on Summer Street did not include locator signals only audible signals. Brian Sullivan said that Mass Highway wanted to increase the standard to a higher level and with that desire included locator signals after the contract was signed. Brian Sullivan said that the Town has worked with Mass Highway to use the locator signals; however problems continue with the locator signals. Brian Sullivan said that until Mass Highway can resolve the problems with the locators on Summer Street the Town has requested that the locators be turned off. Barbara Jones asked why the audible signals at Overlook Road have not been turned on. Brian Sullivan said that these signals were activated but because the audible signal malfunctioned the signals were temporarily turned off. Clarissa Rowe requested assistance from the Commission in finding information about locator signals that would work on Summer Street. Barbara Jones said that the Town does not verify calls pertaining to Summer Street Accessible Signals. Barbara Jones asked if a member of the Board of Selectmen and/or the Town Manager would be interested in visiting the Accessible Pedestrian Signals on Summer Street with herself.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 P.M.